

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT VOICES OF FREEDOM CHOIR

(Mrs. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the Voices of Freedom choir at the University of Connecticut on their 50th anniversary.

Voices of Freedom is a unique ensemble of approximately 80 or more students that provides personal elevation and enlightenment of the gospel and spiritual music of the Black experience church.

Gospel music promotes a spirit of hope. Music has healing power, and the existence of this choir on this campus at this time is more important now than ever.

I also extend heartfelt congratulations to the Voices of Freedom not only on celebrating 50 years of ministering through music at the University of Connecticut, but a special congratulations to their director, Reverend Lisa Clayton, who is celebrating 27 years leading the choir. Reverend Lisa Clayton's steadfast leadership has been key to the success and longevity of the Voices of Freedom Gospel Choir.

I thank them for all they do to elevate the importance of stories through song.

HONORING GERDA WEISSMANN KLEIN

(Mr. JACOBS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, today, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, I honor the life of Gerda Weissmann Klein, who passed away on April 3.

Gerda was born in Poland in May 1925 and was only a teenager when her homeland was invaded by the Nazis. In 1942, she was sent to the Gross-Rosen camp system.

In 1945, Gerda was taken on a 3-month death march through Czechoslovakia. Luckily, the failed ignition of an incendiary device saved Gerda and 120 other women, who were liberated soon after.

After the war, Gerda immigrated to western New York, my home, to raise her family, and she traveled the country sharing her story. Gerda's first book, "All But My Life," told her story and was adapted into an Oscar-winning documentary called "One Survivor Remembers."

Gerda has received numerous honors and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Gerda also spoke before the United Nations General Assembly on the first International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Gerda is survived by 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. May her memory be a blessing to us all.

CONGRESS SHOULD FUND GLOBAL VACCINATIONS

(Mr. AUCHINCLOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to pass a bill recognizing that viruses don't respect borders and that the United States has a moral imperative to lead the world in vaccine diplomacy.

The only way to reach our goal of a 70 percent vaccination rate worldwide is to fund global vaccination efforts. We have the best vaccines in the world, and plenty of them, but we lack the political will to use them. Without this funding, people around the world will die, and future variants and surges will be more likely here at home.

I implore my colleagues to fund global COVID vaccinations and treatments. A supplemental relief bill that does not fund global vaccinations is not a bill that prevents and prepares for COVID surges. It would be a humanitarian setback and a threat to the American recovery.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, today, former Secretary Madeleine Albright was funeralized at the National Cathedral.

I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and a woman who exuded confidence and knowledge of worldwide diplomacy. She was appointed by President Clinton and became a champion for women's rights around the world.

I remember meeting her on the border of Bangladesh, meeting with young girls who had just been trafficked and returned to their native land. How empathetic she was to these young girls who had been traumatized and were Bangladesh citizens.

I understand, as well, that she cared about ensuring that human rights was heard around the world. She was a fighter against anti-Semitism because of the history of her own life and family, fleeing Europe during that time.

As we stand against the ideals of hatred and anti-Semitism, we stand in honor of former Secretary Madeleine Albright.

May she rest in peace, and may her legacy be one of worldwide diplomacy, the rights of women, peace, and solutions to hatred. We never hope to have hatred in this land and in this world. May she rest in peace and rest in power.

CONGRATULATING SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my most sincere congratulations to Scottie Scheffler for his decisive victory at this year's Masters Tournament.

For 88 years, the world's greatest golfers have traveled to Georgia to play the world's greatest golf course, the Augusta National. Every April, sports fans across the world get a glimpse into the beauty and majesty that Georgia's 12th District has to offer.

This year, after shooting 69 in the first round and 67 in the second, Mr. Scheffler held on to a 3-stroke lead heading into the championship on Sunday.

As he made that walk to the 18th green, there was no doubt Scottie would walk away with that iconic green jacket, something every golfer dreams about.

Thanks to his strong play, he also had the luxury of being able to 4-putt his way to victory, something else that every golfer dreams about. But Scottie shouldn't worry. In the words of past winner Seve Ballesteros, when they asked how in the world did he 4-putt 16, he said: "I miss. I miss. I miss. I make."

INFLATION, IMMIGRATION, AND INCOMPETENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, according to The Washington Post, Washington Democrats have diagnosed their messaging as the source of their current political problems. My colleagues and I are here tonight to offer a second opinion.

Mr. Speaker, the Washington Democrats certainly do have a problem, but it is not caused by their messaging; it is being caused by their policies. That is clear for everybody to see.

You see, the phrase "messaging problem" is a phrase that is familiar to us on Capitol Hill. It presumes that the American people would support your agenda; they just haven't heard it yet, or they don't quite understand it. But that is certainly not the problem for these Washington Democrats.

It is not their policies, and it is not that their policies are too sophisticated for the rest of us to understand, nor is it that the American people

don't know what is good for them. It is exactly the opposite.

The American people know what is best for them and their families, and they can see very plainly the results of Washington Democrats' one-party rule. They do not like it.

The plain result of the Washington Democrat agenda can be summed up in what I have been calling back home the three i's. You might narrow it down to, currently: inflation, immigration, and incompetence.

We can talk about the crippling inflation, the sky-high illegal immigration, and the unprecedented incompetence of the Democrats in charge in the White House, too.

Let's talk about inflation. When President Biden and Washington Democrats assumed control of the Federal Government, inflation was at 1.4 percent. Now, here we are 1 year and trillions of dollars in government spending later, and inflation has reached 8.5 percent. It is at a 41-year high, and it is still climbing.

For Americans doing the math at their kitchen table, let's put that in real terms. That means these price increases will cost you two paychecks this year and probably two more next year.

Rather than accepting responsibility, what are they doing? President Biden and Washington Democrats have told us all that it is Russia's fault, and they advise that we should buy an electric car.

Let's talk about illegal immigration. With regard to that, the policies of President Biden and these Democrats have resulted in record levels of illegal immigration, record levels of illicit drugs flowing into our country, and a humanitarian catastrophe at the southern border.

Today, the Biden administration is actually planning to lift the public health restrictions of title 42 that were really the last remaining tool in the toolbox to control illegal immigration. Believe it or not—get this—this is happening at the very time that they are suing in Federal court to keep Americans masked up.

According to the Biden administration, if you are an illegal immigrant, COVID restrictions are over. But if you are an American citizen, hey, you better buckle up because these COVID restrictions are going to be around for a while.

Incompetence, I don't think we need to elaborate too much. Everyone can see this with their own eyes. It wasn't so long ago that Washington Democrats tried to cast themselves as the party of competence. Remember that, in the election cycle?

But many congressional Democrats still can't be bothered to show up here at work. Many haven't voted in person in a long, long time. Some phone into committee hearings from bed, literally.

The story at President Biden's agencies isn't much better. Another tax season has come and gone, yet Biden's

Treasury Department is still working on getting last year's tax refunds out to the American people.

Remember the fatal troop withdrawal, the debacle from Afghanistan. No one at Biden's Defense Department has been fired or held accountable for the chaos that left 13 American soldiers dead.

The President himself continues to confuse basic policies from the White House podium on a near-daily basis.

The American people deserve competence in government. But they have received, by far, with this administration, the most incompetent government of our lifetimes.

Mr. Speaker, again, there is a reason that politicians like to blame their problems on messaging. It implies that if only the American people heard our message, they would support it. In this case, it is the American people who are hearing very clearly the Democrat message, and they reject it.

I thank my colleagues for joining me on the floor this evening, where we will be talking about the broad array, the panoply, of crises created by this administration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I don't like to consider myself an overly partisan Congressman, so I will lead off my speech by quoting two Democrats kind of as a background for the rest of this speech.

In Politico—so you know it is true—an unnamed Democrat quotes Barack Obama as saying don't underestimate Joe's ability to blank things up. Former Obama Defense Secretary Robert Gates says that Joe Biden has been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the last four decades. I want my Democrat friends to think about that.

Now, I am not an expert on foreign policy, but it seems the goal in the Ukrainian-Russian war should be to end hostilities. On the internet, you can find numbers from 2,000 to 20,000 civilians that have died so far. Of course, it appears as though tens of thousands of military personnel have passed away as well. Every day, the number of Ukrainian and military deaths continues to go up.

I will point out that Ukraine has the second-lowest birth rate of the 100 largest countries in the world, and Russia also has a low birth rate. When I happened to be in San Diego about a year ago, in that sector at that time—just that sector and that time—the second most common nationality to enter the United States was Russian. In other words, both Russia and Ukraine should be desperate to hold onto the young people that they have.

□ 1830

We have helped Ukraine, and fortunately Ukraine has staved off this inexcusable aggression. Every day that there are good reports from Ukraine, we should be glad for the successes that Ukraine has had.

However, obviously, a goal should be to end this war, and we should be working towards the end of the war to save the lives and to save the economic devastation that we will leave behind in Ukraine.

President Biden and Defense Secretary Austin should stop and think whether their statements are more or less likely to bring Russia to the negotiating table. I encourage my Democrat friends to give a little bit of guidance to this administration as to how to end this war.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. Some wise counsel there. I wish they would heed it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, folks on the left have accused us good Republicans of complaining about inflation. They say we have no plan for lowering the cost of food, clothes, or gasoline.

Of course, the Democrats have controlled Congress for the last 15 months, Mr. Speaker, as you well know. During that time, they have successfully rammed through trillions in unnecessary Federal spending.

Let's look at where that has gotten us. Prices for goods and services Americans rely on rose by 8.5 percent in March 2022 compared to March 2021. That is unacceptable for working Americans, especially for east Tennesseans.

That is not even the worst of it all. Even after all this spending raised costs for American families, the Democrats still don't think it was enough. They still think the multitrillion-dollar high tax Build Back Better Act—which we have called build back broke, you can call it whatever you want—is a good idea. That bill will be catastrophic for price stability.

Right now our country is dealing with the consequences of reckless government spending. All we seem to be doing is saddling more debt on the shoulders of future generations. We used to say we are piling it on our kids. Now it is our grandchildren and great-grandchildren, which some of the folks in this body, I am sure, have multiples of those. And that is not right.

So to the critics on the left who complain that Republicans don't have a plan to address inflation, I ask you this: What is wrong with a plan to spend fewer taxpayer dollars and to be smarter about the money we do spend? This kind of fiscal responsibility is a legitimate solution to fixing the unstable prices that are worrying families in east Tennessee and across the country. Republicans should not be afraid to say that fiscal responsibility is our plan.

My folks instilled in me a lot of values, and one of those is, "Don't spend it if you don't have it," and "Just because you have it doesn't mean you have got to spend it, dadgummit."

Mr. Speaker, I thank Vice Chairman JOHNSON, as always, for his lackluster leadership.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I told my friend that I would be faithful to him because he has been faithful to participate in all the Special Order hours if I kept the trains running on time.

I yield now to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), who I slighted earlier. I would invite him to talk more about all these crises we are facing.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Western Caucus, we were hosted by Congressmen AUGUST PFLUGER and JOEY ARRINGTON recently in west Texas. We went there to explore, as they say it, food, fiber, and fuel.

I am going to talk a little bit about the fuel part of that trip and how west Texas is poised to really contribute to America's energy dominance. Just like northeastern Pennsylvania, west Texas' energy is world class. We toured oil and gas drilling sites on the Permian Basin and heard from producers about some of the cutting-edge solutions they are implementing to reduce carbon emissions and get American energy to market more cleanly and efficiently.

From Midland, Texas, to Montrose, Pennsylvania, and much of the land in between, America is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. American energy—oil and natural gas—is right beneath our feet, ready to power our Nation and the world.

Instead of embracing this fact, President Biden has thrust our Nation into an energy crisis by tying the hands of America's energy producers. This administration has made it very clear where it stands on the future of American energy.

Make no mistake: American oil and natural gas is the key to lowering prices at the pump, stopping inflation, and building a stronger workforce. It all starts with harnessing American energy, from west Texas to northeast Pennsylvania, but that is only possible if this administration gets out of the way and allows American producers to take the lead.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for bringing that up. Coming from an energy State like Louisiana, just like Pennsylvania, we know how important this is to us. Under the Trump administration, we had achieved energy dominance. We could get back to that if they would just simply do the opposite of what they are doing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, inflation is an invisible tax that Americans pay every day. Everywhere you look, inflation is wreaking havoc. At the gas station, gas is up 48 percent; at the grocery store, beef is up 20 percent; chicken, up 15 percent; butter, up 14 percent; fruits and vegetables, up 7 percent; coffee, up 12 percent.

At home, electricity is up 11 percent; furniture is up 15 percent; and even the rent is up 5 percent.

What about a vacation? You still won't be able to escape inflation, as hotels are up 29 percent and airplane flights are up 23 percent.

Recent graduates entering the workforce will be forced to pay record-high rent and other expenses as they enter adulthood. New mothers and fathers will pay 10 percent higher prices for baby food. Many Americans who saved their entire lives to retire comfortably are now faced with the brutal realization that they may not have saved enough.

Even the Nashville airport, which is renovating and expanding, was hit hard by inflation when the price of a new satellite concourse jumped from \$92 million just last March to over \$134 million today.

As you can see, inflation affects every aspect of our lives. It is costing the average American family an extra \$433 per month, and it is expected to cost each household over \$5,000 extra just this year alone.

Inflation isn't something you can easily turn off, but President Biden and congressional Democrats proved that their reckless, progressive policies can certainly turn it on. Since President Biden took office and Democrats gained control of both Chambers of Congress, inflation has increased every single month.

They borrowed from future generations and spent trillions of hard-earned taxpayer dollars on wasteful government programs and assured us that it wouldn't cause inflation, even though we all knew it would. That is why it is so disingenuous that the President, his administration and Democratic allies in Congress, and the mainstream media are blaming inflation on the invasion of Ukraine. To use one of the President's favorite words, that is pure malarky.

Meanwhile, as my constituents feel more pain each day from the growing inflation disaster, the President and his administration hardly even mention it, much less offer solutions except to propose spending trillions of dollars more that we don't have, which will, of course, only make things worse. Just look at President Biden's budget proposal, where inflation is not mentioned even one time. Instead, it calls for spending a whopping \$75 trillion over the next decade.

There is no denying that the massive deficit spending got us into this harmful mess, and doing more of the same certainly won't get us out of it. I and my fellow conservatives have pushed back as hard as we can against the reckless approach to governing that our Democratic friends have taken, but we have been outnumbered and outvoted.

Even though we are outgunned for now, I will nevertheless continue to work hard with my fellow Republicans to do all we can to fight back on every wasteful spending bill the Democrats bring until our commonsense conservative reinforcements are elected in the fall and arrive in January.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) has articulated so well what is on the hearts and minds of so many of our constituents. Inflation is a very real problem for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) for helping us get these important messages out.

It has been about 2 months since Russia invaded our ally, Ukraine. Russia has spent nearly a year amassing hundreds of thousands of troops and military weaponry along Ukraine's borders, with the backing of their northern neighbor, Belarus. Most people were doubtful that Ukraine would be able to successfully fight off these attacks for more than a few days.

Amazingly, being surrounded the way they are, outnumbered and outgunned, they have been able to heroically hold off their Russian invaders. President Putin has justified his attack as a peacekeeping mission or a liberating one. In reality, it is really a thinly veiled attempt to frighten NATO against further expansion and, of course, muscle Ukraine's neighbors into submission.

Both NATO and the United States have a longstanding tradition of standing with sovereign nations who face adversarial oppression, and that is exactly what we are seeing in Eastern Europe as Putin attempts to forcefully reunite the Soviet Union.

After 2 months of fighting and billions of dollars in aid sent to Ukraine, I have heard concerns of many people wondering why are we focusing so much money and attention on a conflict thousands of miles away?

We have our own problems domestically, of course, which are self-inflicted, with rising inflation, the border crisis, crime, and food and energy shortages.

Ultimately, this is a matter of freedom and self-sovereignty versus concession. We could actually extinguish another Cold War from happening before it has a chance to grow, if we had taken action sooner. We could still take positive action now.

The world all knew this conflict was coming. It has been brewing for a year before the invasion actually occurred. We shouldn't have waited for blood to be shed before acting.

If President Biden hadn't shut down domestic energy production on his first day in office, the U.S. would have been more economically empowered to enact harsh financial sanctions at Russia's first minor incursion.

We could have been producing enough oil to export LNG overseas to our allies instead of watching Poland being cut off from natural gas. Wow, is that a surprise or not? We can't dare have anybody speak up; otherwise, they will get their gas cut off. Why in the world are we claiming Nord Stream pipeline,

et cetera? The U.S. should be the one intervening, helping with energy independence for us and our European allies.

So what is the focus of the Biden administration? Yeah, we are starting up on Ukraine more, but what we are really looking at is that our military isn't as ready as it should be. Instead of military readiness, President Biden wants to put the focus on turning us into a green Army, a green military, because we are chasing around .04 percent of the atmosphere of carbon dioxide. That is the priority, not military readiness. Chasing carbon dioxide instead of helping our allies chase invaders out of their countries. That is not military readiness.

The Stinger missiles we are sending, we need to be producing more of them. The Javelin missiles, same thing. We are still caught up probably in chip shortage problems. We need to be focused on military readiness for us and being able to be a good neighbor, as is sort of our obligation when we helped Ukraine become nuclear free back during the Clinton era.

Let's not let down our ally. Let's focus on what is going to help the American people work, not chasing CO₂, but instead strengthening our military and looking out for our neighbors and our allies, such as Ukraine. Taiwan is going to need our help, as well as the rest of our NATO obligations, as NATO membership seeks to increase, which will be a good thing for all of us.

We can't let this tyrant Putin keep getting away with this stuff. We must be strong and not quiver every time he decides to make another move.

I appreciate this opportunity for all of us here to stand with Ukraine, stand with our allies around the world, and not just think that CO₂ is going to be the biggest problem we face. Indeed, it is aggression by dictators that is the greatest threat.

□ 1845

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that reminder about the importance of peace through strength; that weakness invites aggression and that is the only thing holding terrorists and tyrants at bay so many times in so many places over these 245 years of our existence. Certainly, after World War II it was the perception of a strong America. And if we project weakness like we are, we are all in danger.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), who knows about the theater of war.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana for this opportunity to speak about title 42.

Mr. Speaker, in the last 14 months, this administration and its open-door policies have created the worst border crisis we have seen in decades, leaving our southern border very vulnerable to the dangerous cartels and our communities are vulnerable to the lethal drugs that they bring in.

Every day, 2,000 migrants evade capture and illegally enter our country. That is over 300,000 illegal immigrants evading capture in the last 6 months alone. Unfortunately, our Border Patrol warns us that this is only the known getaways, and that the real number is likely much higher.

By the President's own admission, rolling back title 42 would cause a mass migration event and would certainly overwhelm our already overworked and undersupported Border Patrol. Not only are Americans still held to a higher COVID protocol standard than the migrants at our southern border, but title 42 remains one of the only tools our overrun agents can use to get this swelling crisis under control.

Ending title 42 won't help President Biden fulfill his State of the Union promise to secure the southern border, it will only make this crisis that the administration has created more unsustainable.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend so much for that and for his service to our country.

Having defended our Nation you know that if we don't have a border, we not only don't have safety and security, but we also don't even have sovereignty. We don't even have a country. We have to have a border, and this administration has given us none.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas. (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding. And unlike my friend from Knox County, Tennessee, I have the utmost respect for his ability to manage a Special Order with great aplomb, style, and skill.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time to talk tonight about something that I have reflected on now for the 7 years that I have served in the House. Over those 7 years, I have been to our southwest border 7 times, and I am in preparation right now to go back next week.

So I rise tonight to bring attention to what is a growing crisis at our southwest border and share the fear and the frustration that are experienced there by those communities, their law enforcement officers, their schools, their churches, and to reflect on the Biden administration's just continued neglect there.

Mr. Speaker, this is shocking to us because the first order of good governance by the executive is to protect the homeland, secure it, protect the people. Public safety is such a critical element in each of our communities so it makes no sense to any of us, whether we served for a brief period of time or for decades here, that our executive would leave our borders so open, so vulnerable.

Over the last 6 months, we have had over a million migrant encounters at our southern border, with over 221,000 last month alone. That is a high for the Biden administration; 221,000 encounters. As my friend who just spoke suggested, that doesn't count the ones we don't catch, the so-called getaways.

Mr. Speaker, this overwhelming number of migrants swarming our southwest border, though, should come as no surprise based on the actions of the administration. So shocked, yes, because the executive has abandoned its primary mission. But surprise, no. And let me explain why, Mr. Speaker.

In the earliest days of his Presidency, President Biden repealed the Trump-era policies that discouraged illegal immigrants from flooding our borders and kept our communities safe. And this was after a lot of trial and error. I think Mr. Trump went through possibly three Secretaries of Homeland Security and had a lot of frustration at this very tough challenge.

But in President Biden's decision to do away with those Trump policies that were ultimately working so effectively, he replaced them with nothing. Now here again, I have to express shock—perhaps not surprise, as this is a crisis-oriented administration—but certainly shock because no successful manager ends a working policy and replaces it with nothing.

If you buy a business and you want to change the HR policy, you don't just say: Hey, starting tomorrow, there is no HR policy. I will let you know what it is in a few months. It is nuts.

President Biden's efforts to suspend and terminate the border wall construction are costing taxpayers between \$1.8 and \$2 billion because we are still paying those contractors to build the wall that is not being built due to contract penalties. Of course, the State of Texas has stepped in, and perhaps they are going to take on some of that and build it themselves using Texas' taxpayer dollars for a national/international border.

Now, as my friend said a few minutes ago, the administration is moving forward to end what is called title 42. Title 42 has proven to be an effective effort at contributing to border security. And while the Biden administration continues to use it less and less—in fact, last month, Mr. Speaker, 50 percent of all the migrant encounters were processed for expulsion under title 42. So it is a critical element of both public health and public safety at the border.

President Biden proposes to have that policy end here in just a few weeks, in the middle of May. Yet, he has proposed no policy to replace it. Again, we can expect a surge at our border. In fact, the Customs and Border Patrol, the executive branch agency responsible for guarding our border, securing our border, expects that to surge to 18,000 migrant encounters per day.

Now, whoa, let's do the math because that sounds unbelievable, but you are talking 18,000. That is a half a million people per month. We are running right now annualized—I just reported it to you—at about 2 million encounters. And this is a half million per month; six million people.

Really? We really think that is border security? We think that is an appropriate policy for this great Nation?

It is insane. We will see the impact of this crisis throughout our communities. And as many of my colleagues have said, every State is a border State now as a result of this irresponsible approach.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is the Biden administration has made it clear they have no plan, apparently, to secure our border. They certainly had a year and a half to demonstrate that they have one, and it is the American people that are suffering.

So in summary, what are the ramifications?

Millions coming into our country illegally without proper documentation and without the right public health concerns.

Every State now is a border State. As reported a few minutes ago, there were 42 people caught by CBP that are on the terrorist watch list.

Now, let me say, I was at the Chula Vista Station years ago. And it was common practice that people would come in, they would throw their legal documents away—a passport, an ID of some kind—put them in the trash, sew them in their clothing, not disclosed, and say they are from whatever country they said they were from. And that basically creates a new identity for them in our system.

Mr. Speaker, so if 42 people have been caught, how many have come in that are on that terrorist watch list that have a mal-intent on our country? Ramifications; record human trafficking. And the cartels—our great friends in Mexico, virtually a cartel-driven border—making \$5,000, \$6,000 on Venmo, or in a promise to pay for each person trafficked, they are at millions, hundreds of millions—\$400 million a month, some estimate—of making cash off this effort.

Crime along the border is rampant, fentanyl and drugs on our streets. We lost 100,000 people last year to an opioid overdose. The fastest rising cause of death for young people across this country, 25 to 50 years old; 100,000 dead, double what we lost in the Vietnam war, and fentanyl is pouring across that border.

In fact, we have interdicted—again, what we have caught—we have interdicted enough fentanyl, this vitally poisonous drug, to kill 7.4 billion people, and this is spiraling costs to our counties and our border States.

Mr. Speaker, there is no plan. There is no policy. There are national security ramifications with an open border. It is irresponsible. It is incompetent. And I call on Secretary Mayorkas to resign his job as a failure. This administration has failed the American people and the border.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana for his leadership.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. And I will tell him that he is not going to resign.

The gentleman from Arkansas may not know this, but just a few hours ago in the Homeland Security Committee, one of our Republican colleagues from Mississippi, Congressman GUEST, asked the Secretary under oath, he said: Are you testifying, as you sit here today, that the southwest border is secure?

“Yes, I am.”

The Secretary of Homeland Security actually said under oath that that border is secure. So we must just be imagining all of this. It is really unbelievable, as we said.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for holding this Special Order and for his leadership, for having these discussions at such an important time.

Mr. Speaker, right now, millions of refugees have been displaced from their homes. Children are being forced to go without food, clothing, and shelter, and thousands of civilians are being murdered in the streets.

These are the effects of the Russian Federation's war against the free and sovereign people of Ukraine. The human cost of this war is devastating. We need to bring an end to the hostilities. The United States must stand ready to support the people of Ukraine with the tools and the weapons necessary to fight against and defeat the Russian Army.

There is another component to our mission that cannot be overstated. As our NATO allies continue to support President Zelenskyy in Ukraine, they will face economic retaliation from Russia.

Just this morning, Russia announced that it would halt the sale of natural gas to Poland and Bulgaria. While this decision will create difficulties for the people living and working in these NATO countries, it also provides the United States an opportunity to stand with our allies and show Putin that his cheap and dirty gas is not needed to power this war.

President Ronald Reagan once said, “We know only too well that war comes not when the forces of freedom are strong, but when they are weak. It is then that tyrants are tempted.”

Unfortunately, President Biden's energy policies have so far not shown the strength that this moment requires. It is time to approve the permits needed to bring more American energy, like coal, oil, natural gas, and Marcellus shale to the market. We need to supply our neighbors and our allies with affordable American energy. It is time to promote American energy dominance and show Russia that its energy reserves do not give Putin a blank check to attack his neighbors.

America can provide the energy that our friends and allies need. It is time to come to the aid of Poland and Bulgaria, and it is time to produce and supply American energy.

Again, I thank Mr. JOHNSON for his leadership.

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Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is exactly right. It is time to shift back to American energy dominance, which we had under the previous administration.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield next to another doctor, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and neighbor from Louisiana. I represent the 36th District in East Texas. I thank the gentleman for having this.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden and his followers here in Congress seem to believe that their policies cannot cause inflation, or cause shortages of food, or even shortages of baby formula now.

Instead of accepting their well-deserved blame and providing a sensible path forward for the American people, they deflect; they blame President Trump, who has been out of office for more than 15 months now; or they blame Russia or Ukraine, even though gas and grocery prices were skyrocketing well before that conflict even began.

As polling shows, the majority of Americans are well aware of the President's mishandling of our economy. And while I believe that in November in those elections, they will show President Biden exactly what the American people are thinking about his policies, I don't believe that he will actually change course.

As long as he occupies the Oval Office, it is his duty to serve the American people, and I call on President Biden to immediately get with the program, Mr. President.

President Biden, please worry less about who is in charge of Twitter, or whether schoolchildren are wearing masks, and stop trying to force socialist woke policies on to a public that does not want them. Uphold your oath of office, the rule of law, and do your job.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, we have been calling on this President to do his job since he entered that office, and he hasn't done it. I appreciate the gentleman's leadership on all these issues.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield next to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), another good friend.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that Biden's self-inflicted border crisis continues to spiral out of control, and it is only getting worse.

President Biden's reckless immigration agenda may be easy for the left to dismiss, because it is what they want, but the heartbreaking and illegal consequences of his failed policies are impossible to ignore.

Last week, at just 22 years old, Texas Army National Guard Specialist Bishop Evans made the ultimate sacrifice while trying to save two illegals from drowning. And you know, those two illegals turned out to be alleged drug smugglers. This young man served his country and his State honorably

while fighting on the front lines of President Biden's border crisis.

To my knowledge, the President still hasn't said one word about this young soldier's tragic death. The President's silence is deafening and disappointing.

Keep in mind, it only took the President a matter of hours to accuse Border Patrol agents on horseback of misconduct when dealing with a rush of Haitian illegals just a few months ago.

Simply put, the President's lack of interest and empathy reveals the sinister, but undeniable, fact that the chaos at our southern border is intentional. Since stepping foot into the White House, Joe Biden has eagerly destroyed our border security, putting Border Patrol agents at risk and threatening every community across the country with an invasion of illegal aliens.

From illegally defying a Federal court order to reinstate the remain in Mexico policy, to fighting to terminate title 42 next month, the Biden administration has egregiously worked to undermine President Trump's successful solutions that protected our southern border.

Biden's border crisis also represents a significant economic burden on the American people.

According to a recent study written by the Federation for American Immigration Reform, or FAIR, the number of illegal aliens living in the United States increased by one million in President Biden's first year in office, bringing the estimated total of illegal aliens in the country to 15.5 million.

Additionally, FAIR's fiscal analysis finds that the millions of illegal aliens currently residing in our great Nation are imposing a net fiscal burden of at least \$143 billion, an increase of almost \$10 billion since Joe Biden took office.

Keep in mind, this comes at a time when American taxpayers are footing the bill for Democrats' senseless spending and battling the consequences of 40-year high inflation.

The bottom line is that President Biden's radical open-border agenda is illegal, intentional, and disastrous for our economy. It is no wonder over 60 percent of Americans disapprove of Biden's handling of immigration. Americans simply know the truth: President Biden puts illegal aliens first and Americans last, and the Biden administration is actively working to cover up that truth.

Today, we learned that Biden's Department of Homeland Security is creating a Disinformation Governance Board which will be led by political hack Nina Jankowicz. This is nothing more than a blatant attempt to install a ministry of truth in order to push Biden's propaganda, lies, and radical agenda while concealing and censoring the truth about what is really happening at the southern border.

Mr. Speaker, this is seriously dangerous and wholly unconstitutional, which is why I am demanding that Congress immediately investigate

President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas' Disinformation Governance Board.

We need answers now, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for his clear voice and clarion call for competence and common sense.

Mr. Speaker, what my colleagues have articulated tonight is our view, the American people's view on the debacle that is the unified government by the Democrats of the Congress and the White House.

We have crippling inflation. We have sky high, illegal immigration. We have unprecedented incompetence at every level. It has yielded us, as you heard tonight, an energy crisis, a crime crisis, a foreign policy crisis, and an agenda that seems almost intentional in its design to put the American people last instead of first.

This is the opposite of what was pursued under the previous administration, the opposite of the strides, the incredible achievements that we had accomplished in the first 2 years of the Trump administration with Republicans in charge of this House and the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I think the American people have had enough of this wildly progressive America last agenda. I think that they are going to let their voices be heard in this upcoming election. And it is our prayer that we can survive between now and November, and in January when we take control again.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my colleagues for participating and joining me on the floor this evening, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and to address their remarks to the Chair.

THE SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Well, Mr. Speaker, while we were on break for the last 2 weeks, I spent some time at the southern border in three sectors, the San Diego sector, the El Centro sector, and the Yuma sector. And I think it is important that we try to educate the Chair of what is going down there.

I will start off by just talking about raw numbers that were recently released. And so our listeners understand, when you talk about the border, there are two groups: There are people who want to find the Border Patrol and check in and get a future date for a hearing as they ask for asylum; and there are people who sneak across, which we refer to as gotaways.

For certain reasons that I will soon address, the number of gotaways recently went up dramatically. And the

number of gotaways is always an estimate because we don't catch them, we don't interview them. They are people who got away into the interior of the United States.

But we believe right now, or the Border Patrol believes, that in March, there were 62,000 gotaways; people who were not interviewed; people who we don't know who they are, who snuck in the country.

We also believe in March there were 90,000 people let in the country by the Border Patrol, usually asking for an asylum claim.

When we combine these two numbers—and by the way, there are other people who are turned around, and that is why you sometimes hear people say there were 220,000 contacts in March, which is true, but not all of those people were let in the country.

We do believe 152,000 people were let in the country. At least in the last 3 years, and as far as I know, forever, that is the highest number of people who have been let in the United States in 1 month. By way of comparison, a year ago, in March, we were at 63,000. So we went up from 63,000 to 153,000.

And if you go before March 2021, March 2020, coincidentally, a different President, we were at 11,000. So we have gone from 11,000 in March of 2020, to 63,000, to 152,000. That is a crisis by any standard.

Now, you might say, why are there so many more gotaways? Because when so many people are turning themselves in at the border—and by the way, there are about 10,000 unaccompanied minors who were let in this March as well, and it takes the Border Patrol a longer period of time to process the minors.

When there are so many people that have to be processed, the Border Patrol spends all their time doing paperwork and not guarding the border. There was a time when the Border Patrol reported to work and they guarded the border. Now, we were told in the sectors that I was at that 70 percent of the Border Patrol, when they show up at work, start doing paperwork. By the time their shift is over, 90 percent of the Border Patrol is doing paperwork, which is one of the reasons why so many more people are sneaking across the border.

By the way, if you wanted to take illegal drugs into the country, how would do you it? Would you turn yourself into the Border Patrol or would you try to sneak across? Which is why, right now, we believe, there are many more illegal drugs, including fentanyl, coming into the country now than there were in the past.

There are less drugs being confiscated, way less drugs being confiscated, and for the same reason. If the Border Patrol is not guarding the border, more people sneak across with the drugs and less people are caught.

So, in any event, that by itself is enough that should just alarm the people of this body, as well as the American public is saying, what is going on,